

Attorney Docket No.: 13250US02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Gil I. Winograd et al.

Serial No.: 10/692,230

Filed: October 23, 2003

For: SYNCHRONOUS CONTROLLED,
SELF-TIMED LOCAL SRAM BLOCK

Examiner: Tan Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 2818

Conf. No. 8392

EXPRESS MAIL

LABEL No. EV 435257847 US

DATE: March 11, 2005

COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS FOR REASONS OF ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

In the Office Action dated August 20, 2004, the Examiner set forth his reasons for allowance as follows:

[t]he prior art failed to show or suggest the cluster device is adapted to sink a tail current of at least one local sense amplifier contained in the cluster device as claimed in claim 19, or the memory device further comprises a plurality of local clusters having at least one common local word coupling all said plurality of clusters in a block as claimed in claims 20, 47-48 and claims 51-57, or the cluster device comprises at least one sense amplifier adapted to be activated by a global cluster line as claimed in claim 21. The prior art failed to show or suggest the local sense amplifiers as claimed in claims 43-45, the cluster device is a self-timed local element interfacing with the muxing devices in claim 46. The prior art failed to show the steps of activating at least one cluster device coupled to at least one muxing device and firing at least one sense amplifier in the cluster device.

(Office Action, pg. 3, lines 10-20). Applicants submit that such a characterization of the claims in view of the prior art does not properly take into account all Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants submit that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance provides that the independent claim 18 (previously amended to include the features of claim 46) and claim 51 are only allowable for the reasons provided above. However, the Examiner's reasons do not discuss any of the other elements of those claims, nor any of the features of independent claim 58.

Moreover, Applicants believe that the Examiner's Statement implies that the dependent claims 19-21, 43-45, 47-48 and 52-57 are only allowable for the reasons provided above. However, such Statement does not discuss any of the other elements of the claimed invention as recited by claims 19-21, 43-45, 47-48 and 52-57, nor any of the elements of claims 59-62, all of which Applicants believe are not found in the prior art and are independently allowable.

Additionally, subsequent to the Office Action, Applicants added new claims 63-87. Claims 63-71 include the allowable elements of claim 19, among other features; claims 72-79 include the allowable elements of claim 20, among other features; claims 80-85 include the allowable elements of claim 21, among other features; while claims 86-87 include the allowable elements of claim 49, among other features. Applicants submit that claims 63-87 are allowable for other reasons than those provided above and as set forth in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants interpret the Examiner's statement to be a statement of only one reason for allowance of the claims, and that other reasons also exist for allowance of the claims such as, for example, those set forth more completely in the record as a whole. This interpretation is consistent with MPEP 1302.14, which states that any statement of reasons for allowance "[i]s not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why claims are allowed and should not be written to specifically or impliedly state all the reasons for allowance are set forth."

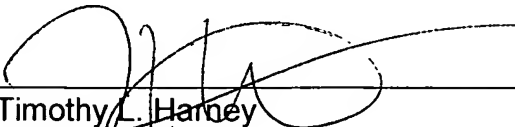
If the Examiner disagrees with Applicants' interpretation, Applicants respectfully request that, prior to issuance, the Examiner withdraw the existing statement of reasons for allowance and simply rely on the record as a whole, or clarify the existing statement of reasons for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or if the Applicants can be of any further assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: March 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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